

POLI 2410/PHIL 2210
Foundations of Political Thought 1658- 1779
Fall 2015 – Dalhousie University
Sir James Dunn - 135
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 13:05-14:25

Professor: Marcella Firmini
Office: Political Science – Henry Hicks, 359
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1 - 2:30pm (or by appointment)
Contact: Marcella.Firmini@dal.ca (Please allow 48hr response time)
TA Contact: TBA in class

Course Description:

This course is meant as an introduction to political philosophy and ideas that still influence modern society. It begins by giving historical context and follows by tracing the development of political ideas that shaped the world.

Required Texts:

- Stephen Cahn, ed. *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy*
- *Online Readings* will be posted to class website.

Course Requirements:

Midterm: November 5 (30%)

Paper: November 19 (30%)

Final exam: As per Registrar's Calendar (40%)

- No alternative dates for exams will be set except for serious medical conditions
 - Always keep electronic or back-up copies of your paper
 - Although no grade is assigned for attendance, lectures will cover large portions of material that **will not** be posted on OWL.
 - No 'late penalties' are assigned because 'late' papers will not be accepted unless the failure to present is justifiable and verifiable through appropriate documentation. If you are encountering difficulties meeting your deadlines, approach the instructor well **before** the submission date to discuss your situation.
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PLEASE FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE DATES WITHIN WHICH YOU CAN DROP COURSES WITHOUT PENALTIES HERE:

http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html

Plagiarism

No amount of plagiarism will be tolerated. There is no excuse for it – ever.

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on plagiarism and academic honesty as referenced here: http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

Accommodation – Please visit their offices for more details

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y courses). Please see http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/student_services/academic-support/accessibility/accommodation-statement-for-course-syllabus.html.

Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom so that students who require their usage will be able to participate in the class.

RULES and POLICY REGARDING USE OF TECHNOLOGY/ELECTRONICS WILL BE DISCUSSED IN CLASS.

SEPTEMBER

10-15: Introduction and Expectations

- TA intro and contact information if available
- Toward 1651 - do ideas matter? Why do they endure?
Readings - Cahn 1174-1177 (Pericles' Funeral Oration)

17-22: The Renaissance & Niccolò Machiavelli

- *Readings* - Cahn: 324-327
The Prince – Chap. I-III; V-VIII; XV-XVIII; XXV
Discourses – pp. 352 (2); 355 (9); 358 (B2); 360 (1)

24-29-Oct. 1: The Enlightenment & Thomas Hobbes

- *Readings* - Cahn: 373-375
Chap. Intro; Chap. (from pg. 405) 17, 18, 19, 21, 29

PAPER TOPICS AVAILABLE – See BBL

OCTOBER

6: HOW TO WRITE A PAPER – Guest Lecturer

8-13-15: John Locke

- *Readings* - BBL: Chapter 12 (207-224);
Cahn: 446-450;
Chap. 450-463; 470-485; 503-516

20-22-27:

Le Baron de Montesquieu

- Readings - BBL: Chapter 14 (245-261);
Links to BK 1- C3; BK 2 – C 1 to 5; BK 3 C 1- 9.

NOVEMBER

Oct. 29- Nov 3:

Adam Smith

- Readings - Cahn: 649-653
Chap 1&2 (653-661); pp. 662-670; 677-678

NOV. 5:

MIDTERM

10, 17, 19:

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

- Readings - Cahn: 542-545;
Pages/(Chapters): 561-562 (I, II, III); 563-566 (VI, VII, VIII); 567-573 (I, II, III, IV, VII); 576-584 (II-XI); 588-590 (I, II); 593-594 (Conclusion).

- **PAPER DUE (19th)**

24:

Documentary/Short Film

- *The American Revolution*
- *The Declaration of Independence*

****Take notes. The material will be on the exam****

DECEMBER

Nov. 26- Dec.1-3:

American Political Thought & the Impact of Ideas

- Readings - Cahn 681-685;
Pg. 690 (Fed 10); pg. 705 (Fed 48); pg. 708 (Fed 51); pg. 716 (Fed 62); pg. 719 (Fed 63).
Online: Fed 32
BBL: Declaration of Independence

December 8:

Final Examination Prep

Final Exam as per Registrar's Calendar. Please remember: DO NOT BOOK TRAVEL until you are aware of the date of the final exam.